

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 – 43. (canceled)

44. (new) A topical composition consisting essentially of (a) a vasodilating amount of a polymer having from 7 to 15 subunits, each subunit consisting of a member of the group selected from L-arginine and physiologically acceptable salts of L-arginine wherein said polymer increases vasodilation and (b) a cosmetically or dermatologically acceptable vehicle.

45. (new) The composition according to claim 44 in which the polymer contains 7, 9, 11, 13 or 15 subunits.

46. (new) The composition according to claim 44 in which the polymer contains 7, 9, 11, or 13 subunits.

47. (new) The composition according to claim 44 in which the polymer contains 7 or 9 subunits.

48. (new) The composition according to claim 44 selected from skin care compositions, lip care compositions, hair care compositions, and dental care compositions.

49. (new) The composition according to claim 44 selected from creams, lotions, solutions, suspensions, powders, emulsions, gels, waxy products, powders and solids.

50. (new) The composition according to claim 44 selected from skin-washing and skin-cleansing preparations, soapless detergents, body lotions, emulsions, skin oils, peeling or scrub preparations, peeling masks, foam baths, bath milks, shower preparations, bath cubes, bath salts, facial make-up eyeshadow, mascara, eyeliner, eye creams, lipsticks, lip gloss, lip contour

pencils, nail polish, nail varnish, foot baths, foot powders, foot creams, foot balsams, callous-removing preparations, sun milks, sun lotions, sun creams, sun oils, sun blocks, pre-tanning preparations, after-sun preparations, self-tanning creams, toothpastes, tooth powders, gum treatment pastes, gum treatment gels, gum rinses, shampoos, conditioners, styling creams, styling gels, hair rinses, foams, hairsprays, hair dyes and hair colorants.

51. (new) The composition according to claim 44 in which the subunits are selected from L-arginine and L-arginine salts selected from the group consisting of L-arginine sulfate, hydrobromide, hydrochloride, sulfate, bisulfate, nitrate, acetate, oxalate, valerate, oleate, palmitate, stearate, laureate, borate, benzoate, lactate, phosphate, tosylate, citrate, maleate, fumarate, succinate, tartrate, naphthylate, mesylate, glucoheptonate, lactiobionate and laurylsulfonate; alkali and alkaline earth metal salts of L-arginine; and ammonium, quaternary ammonium and amine salts of L-arginine.

52. (new) The composition according to claim 44, further containing one or more ingredients selected from antimicrobials, moisturizers and hydration agents, penetration agents, preservatives, emulsifiers, natural or synthetic oils, solvents, surfactants, detergents, gelling agents, emollients, antioxidants, fragrances, fillers, thickeners, waxes, odor absorbers, dyestuffs, coloring agents, powders, viscosity-controlling agents and water, and optionally including anesthetics, anti-itch actives, botanical extracts, conditioning agents, darkening or lightening agents, glitter, hair pigment additives, humectants, mica, minerals, polyphenols, silicones or derivatives thereof, sunblocks, vitamins, and phytomedicinals.

53. (new) The composition according to claim 44, further containing one or more additional skin care, lip care, dental care or hair care active agents.

54. (new) The composition according to claim 53 further containing one or more ingredients selected from anti-acne actives; anti-wrinkle, anti-skin atrophy and skin repair actives; skin barrier repair actives; non-steroidal cosmetic soothing actives; artificial tanning agents and accelerators; skin lightening actives; sunscreen actives; sebum stimulators; sebum inhibitors; anti-oxidants; protease inhibitors; skin tightening agents; anti-itch ingredients; 5-alpha reductase inhibitors; desquamating enzyme enhancers; anti-glycation agents; and mixtures thereof.

55. (new) The composition according to claim 44 in which the polymer further comprises a hydrophobic, hydrophilic, or amphipathic moiety, or a second polymer, linked or anchored to a terminal L-arginine subunit of the polymer.

56. (new) A topical composition consisting essentially of (a) a vasodilating amount of a polymer having from 7 to 15 subunits, each subunit consisting of a member of the group selected from L-arginine and physiologically acceptable salts of L-arginine, said polymer further consisting of one or more additional amino acids other than L-arginine, providing that the L-arginine subunits are contiguous and situated at either the C-terminus or the N-terminus of the polymer, wherein the polymer increases vasodilation and (b) a cosmetically or dermatologically acceptable vehicle.

57. (new) The composition according to claim 56 in which the polymer contains 7, 9, 11, 13 or 15 contiguous L-arginine subunits.

58. (new) The composition according to claim 56 in which the polymer contains 7, 9, 11, or 13 contiguous L-arginine subunits.

59. (new) The composition according to claim 56 in which the polymer contains 7 or 9 contiguous L-arginine subunits.

60. (new) The composition according to claim 56 selected from skin care compositions, lip care compositions, hair care compositions, and dental care compositions.

61. (new) The composition according to claim 56 selected from creams, lotions, solutions, suspensions, powders, emulsions, gels, waxy products, powders and solids.

62. (new) The composition according to claim 56 selected from skin-washing and skin-cleansing preparations, soapless detergents, body lotions, emulsions, skin oils, peeling or scrub preparations, peeling masks, foam baths, bath milks, shower preparations, bath cubes, bath salts, facial make-up eyeshadow, mascara, eyeliner, eye creams, lipsticks, lip gloss, lip contour pencils, nail polish, nail varnish, foot baths, foot powders, foot creams, foot balsams, callous-removing preparations, sun milks, sun lotions, sun creams, sun oils, sun blocks, pre-tanning preparations, after-sun preparations, self-tanning creams, toothpastes, tooth powders, gum treatment pastes, gum treatment gels, gum rinses, shampoos, conditioners, styling creams, styling gels, hair rinses, foams, hairsprays, hair dyes and hair colorants.

63. (new) The composition according to claim 56 in which the L-arginine subunits are selected from L-arginine and L-arginine salts selected from the group consisting of L-arginine sulfate, hydrobromide, hydrochloride, sulfate, bisulfate, nitrate, acetate, oxalate, valerate oleate, palmitate, stearate, laureate, borate, benzoate, lactate, phosphate, tosylate, citrate, maleate, fumarate, succinate, tartrate, naphthylate, mesylate, glucoheptonate, lactiobionate and laurylsulfonate; alkali and alkaline earth metal salts of L-arginine; and ammonium, quaternary ammonium and amine salts of L-arginine.

64. (new) The composition according to claim 56, further containing one or more additional skin care, lip care, dental care or hair care active agents.

65. (new) The composition according to claim 64 further containing one or more active compounds selected from anti-acne actives; anti-wrinkle, anti-skin atrophy and skin repair actives; skin barrier repair actives; non-steroidal cosmetic soothing actives; artificial tanning agents and accelerators; skin lightening actives; sunscreen actives; sebum stimulators; sebum inhibitors; anti-oxidants; protease inhibitors; skin tightening agents; anti-itch ingredients; 5-alpha reductase inhibitors; desquamating enzyme enhancers; anti-glycation agents; and mixtures thereof.

66. (new) The composition according to claim 56, further containing one or more ingredients selected from antimicrobials, moisturizers and hydration agents, penetration agents, preservatives, emulsifiers, natural or synthetic oils, solvents, surfactants, detergents, gelling agents, emollients, antioxidants, fragrances, fillers, thickeners, waxes, odor absorbers, dyestuffs, coloring agents, powders, viscosity-controlling agents and water, and optionally including anesthetics, anti-itch actives, botanical extracts, conditioning agents, darkening or lightening agents, glitter, hair pigment additives, humectants, mica, minerals, polyphenols, silicones or derivatives thereof, sunblocks, vitamins, and phytomedicinals.

67. (new) The composition according to claim 56 in which the polymer further comprises a hydrophobic, hydrophilic, or amphipathic moiety, or a second polymer, linked or anchored to a terminal L-arginine subunit of the polymer.

68. (new) The method of therapeutically caring for the skin, hair, lips or gums comprising applying thereto an enhancing effective amount of the composition according to claim 44.

69. (new) The method according to claim 68 in which the composition is applied topically.

70. (new) The method according to claim 68 in which the composition is applied to promote angiogenesis in hair follicles.

71. (new) The method according to claim 68 in which the composition is applied to alleviate signs of aging in skin.

72. (new) The method according to claim 68 in which the composition is applied to enhance the appearance of lips.

73. (new) The method according to claim 68 in which the composition is applied to enhance sensitivity of skin.

74. (new) The method according to claim 68 in which the composition is applied for stabilization or remodeling of fat.

75. (new) The method according to claim 68 in which the composition is applied for treatment of gum regression.

76. (new) The method of therapeutically caring for the skin, hair, lips or gums comprising applying thereto an enhancing effective amount of the composition according to claim 56.

77. (new) The method according to claim 76 in which the composition is applied topically.

78. (new) The method according to claim 76 in which the composition is applied to promote angiogenesis in hair follicles.

79. (new) The method according to claim 76 in which the composition is applied to alleviate signs of aging in skin.

80. (new) The method according to claim 76 in which the composition is applied to enhance the appearance of lips.

81. (new) The method according to claim 76 in which the composition is applied to enhance sensitivity of skin.

82. (new) The method according to claim 76 in which the composition is applied for stabilization or remodeling of fat.

83. (new) The method according to claim 76 in which the composition is applied for treatment of gum regression.

84. (new) The method of minimizing the signs of skin aging and the tactile discontinuities in the texture of skin comprising applying thereto an enhancing effective amount of the composition according to claim 44.

85. (new) The method of minimizing the signs of skin aging and the tactile discontinuities in the texture of skin comprising applying thereto an enhancing effective amount of the composition according to claim 56.